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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 16 | Humidity 50% Partly cloudy. Misty morning Sensex 58,465 | Nifty 17,463 | Gold 48,501 | Silver 62,354 | Dollar 74.84 | Euro 8[illegible] | [illegible]P 101.62

In Bengaluru, amidst a shortage of bus shelters, anomaly is either there are too many in a given area or none at all

THE BUZZKILL

Out of 2,212 proposed shelters, just 950 built

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KAUSHIK JN

There are those Bengalureans who prefer public transport, especially buses as a safe and easy option in the city, and those who have private vehicles.

The former helps mobility in the city — thanks to lower fares of public transport — by contributing to reducing traffic congestion and pollution from private vehicles.

Nevertheless, these citizens are often unable to find bus shelters in many places, BM found out, and are left to wait for buses that never arrive under the scorching sun. At times, when it rains, they get drenched, still waiting for the buses, out in the open.

In 2015, a plan was made by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) to construct over 2,000 bus shelters, as some in existence were not in a good condition while other shelters were constructed at 'wrong' places. While the BMTC had to suggest locations along with a survey done by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), it is the latter that had to construct the proposed bus shelters.

Overall, according to the figures provided by the BBMP, 2,212 bus shelters had to be constructed. In 2018, BBMP began construction of the shelters and since then only 950 have been built, which is a completion of 42.94% of the proposed infrastructure, not even crossing half the number.

> **"Owners do not allow bus shelters in front of buildings. There are elevation issues, space constraints...**
> — Traffic engineering cell, BBMP

An official from the Traffic Engineering Cell (TEC) of the BBMP told BM: "There have been multiple issues for the delay in adding bus shelters. Firstly, there are space constraints and other problems persist too, such as, a few of the building owners do not allow bus shelters to come in front of their buildings. There are also elevation issues. We have to convince the people to allow construction. In the beginning, even tenders were delayed. However, now we are increasing the pace and carrying out constructions

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Thou shall not speed

Nice Road gets an interceptor to keep check on overspeeding vehicles

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The Bangalore Traffic Police (BTP), especially the West division's Kumaraswamy Layout traffic police station, has deployed a speed interceptor on the NICE Road to keep a check on speeding vehicles during daytime on the expressway. This is the only speed interceptor deployed by the traffic cops within the KS Layout traffic police limits on the entire stretch of NICE Road that starts from Electronic City and ends at Tumkur Road.

The speed interceptor vehicle manned by an ASI-rank officer and two other traffic police constables, is deployed between the Kanakapura toll entry and Bannerghatta toll entry. Though the NICE Road infrastructure was meant for a signal-free corridor that would facilitate fast movement of vehicles, there is a speed limit of 80 km ph for all vehicles specified by the law enforcement agencies and the NICE authorities, which is not being followed by the road users - both two wheelers and four wheelers, the police said. Heavy vehicles including multi-wheelers follow speed limits and lane discipline, but cars and bikes do not, said a senior traffic police officer.

There have been a spate of accidents on the NICE Road caused by speeding and this was also one of the reasons that bike riders were prohibited from using the NICE Road during nighttime from 10 pm to 5 am.

As there are no street lights and also no CCTV cameras here, cases of accidents are unable to be investigated properly and many

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Acoustic retro night

Let your hair down at this acoustic retro night where musician Jahnavi Bhat will mesmerise you with her tunes. Hailing from a Carnatic background, her music has evolved into an eclectic mix of genres with heavy influences from soul, jazz and soft rock. She has collaborated with various independent artistes for live and playback sessions. She has played guitars for Before the Holocaust, an experimental metal outfit from Chennai. She is the Vocalist for Tatkal the Band.
Where: The Studs Sports Bar & Grill, JP Nagar Phase 3; When: Feb 11, 8 pm onwards
Entry: free, 96206 85031/8867803791

02 Wall of Love

Be a part of the Urban Solace Wall of Love! Just go over to the café all through the month of February, pick up a heart and write down what love is to you! Over the last 11+ years, the Urban Solace Wall of Love has been a singular attraction that brings hundreds of guests who come into Urban Solace and write down on a paper heart what love means to them... These expressions are an indication of the mind and heart that people are in. **Where: Urban Solace, Annaswamy Mudaliar Road; Readers can WhatsApp their message to 9845013055 or send an email to myurbansolace@gmail.com**

03 Shuffle Dance

Learn Shuffle Dance or 'Cutting Shapes' as it is sometimes called. This dance form is characterised by quick and slick footwork, to the beats of the latest EDM music. It's a fun and upbeat dance that has many mental and physical health benefits.
Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar
When: Feb 11, 7:30pm – 8:30 pm;
Register: 9886294444

Many roadblocks to teenagers' vax drive

From tracking students out of school to maintaining records of those who do not fall in the age group, the process of inoculating teenagers has not been a smooth journey

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Government school students eligible for the jab line up to get inoculated by Palike health workers

Despite nearly three lakh teenagers in Bengaluru in the 15-18 age group getting vaccinated in the city, there seems to be no end to the hurdles for the inoculation drive that started on January 3.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had identified four lakh 40 thousand beneficiaries and as per the CoWIN portal, a little over two lakh 93 thousand have been vaccinated. However, according to BBMP's Health Department, the portal is not reflecting the actual vaccination numbers due to various issues on ground.

"We have inoculated around four lakh doses so far. As per the target given to us, we were supposed to vaccinate teenagers born between 2005 and 2007. However, due to various reasons, we ended up inoculating even those who were born in 2004 and 2003.

These are the individuals who are above 18 but are still in Class X, XI and XII. And these vaccination cases are not displayed on the portal as they are out of our age group target," said Dr A S Balasundar, Chief Health Officer, Health Department, BBMP.

The officials are also meeting roadblocks in vaccinating the out-of-school children falling in the target age group.

"We are conducting the vaccination drive for the out-of-school children in association with various NGOs; however, the response has been lukewarm. This is because there is no proper documentation of such children by any department in the state or the city.

Tracking all such children is proving to be an uphill task. Moreover, there still is hesitancy in taking the vaccination," said a BBMP official.

Irregular classes in schools due to multiple covid-induced lockdowns have slowed the progress. "We have expressed our concerns regarding these issues to the government and have requested to revise our target. While we are planning to vaccinate our target population within a week's time from now, a delay might be inevitable due to the ongoing hijab row," said Dr Balasundar.

Schools say that getting to the 100 per cent mark will take time. While many students have contracted the virus and are recuperating at home, in case of many others, parents are still reluctant.

"We have conducted two vaccination drives on campus and around 30 per cent of our students in the target age group are vaccinated. This is because many children contracted the virus and have either recovered or are recovering. So now, these students cannot take the vaccination for the next three months.

> **"Many students who contracted covid cannot take the vaccine for the next three months**
> – Gowri Somayya, vice-principal, Harvest International School

Also, there is still a small group of reluctant parents who do not want their kids to get vaccinated," said Gowri Somayya, vice-principal, Harvest International School.

New lease of life for PRR project

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The much-delayed Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) has been given a big push with the State Cabinet giving an administrative approval for the project.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister JC Madhuswamy said that the Cabinet on Wednesday gave the green signal for this ambitious project. "Based on the Supreme Court guidelines, the old land rates will be offered to the farmers who will part with the land and there will be negotiations on this. The road will be of 100 metre in width and 71 kilometre in length. The tenders will be called soon and the construction company will be given a 50-year lease to build, operate, maintain and transfer the road."

BDA to NHAI and back

The PRR was originally announced when SM Krishna was Chief Minister to decongest Bengaluru. The then CM had announced that the project would be taken up by the BDA which had by then successfully executed the Outer Ring Road (ORR) project. In fact, a preliminary survey was also conducted by BDA in 2004. However, in January 2008, the then state executive committee under Governor Rameshwar Thakur announced the transfer of PRR from BDA to NHAI. However, later, the State Government announced the withdrawal of the project from NHAI and handing over to BDA for construction under PPP mode. Since then, many discussions have taken place related to the execution of the project but without much results.

The PRR will start from Hosur Road to Tumakuru Road via Sarjapur

Benefits of PRR

BDA's project report says: "In order to relieve the traffic pressure on the ORR and the major road networks of the city, a Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) of 116 km was planned outside of the ORR. This stretch will not only improve connectivity of areas beyond the ORR, but will also ease the congestion on the ORR. The BDA was focussed on first phase of the project PRR from Hosur Road to Tumakuru Road with a distance of 67 km."

The PRR will start from Hosur Road to Tumakuru Road via KR Puram, Bellary Road, Old Madras Road and Sarjapur Road. The PRR is to take off near Makali on Bengaluru-Pune Road and connect Hosur Road.

Not any dog's best friend

Audi owner who killed streetie recently in soup again, tries to beat up strays this time

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It looks like that 23-year-old Adi Narayana Naidu, grandson of late former MP DK Adikesavulu Naidu, is fishing for trouble after he was arrested and released on a station bail for running over a stray dog and killing it in Jayanagar, South Bengaluru with his Audi car less than two weeks ago.

Adi had to pay Rs 10 lakh surety and submit a bond to the Siddapura police stating that he would never repeat such offences in future and was even warned by the cops that he could get arrested for violating his bail conditions if he indulges in animal cruelty.

On Tuesday night, Adi allegedly again courted trouble by trying to beat up a few stray dogs near 10th B Main, 1st Block in Jayanagar. When the caretaker of the dogs, one Dilip Kumar, took objection to his behaviour, Adi allegedly picked up a heated argument with him and even damaged his car before leaving the spot.

Adi had come to beat up the stray dogs using a stick and Kumar intervened. Kumar, who used to feed those dogs, dialled 112 and a Hoysala patrol vehicle arrived at the spot. Kumar narrated the incident to the cops. The inquiry conducted by the cops was recorded on camera by Kumar, who later circulated the video with his animal lover friends.

Cases of animal cruelty, especially on strays, rise in Bengaluru city

Meanwhile, the Siddapura police maintained that they had not received any complaint regarding this incident. When asked if this could be grounds for Adi's bail getting rejected, the Siddapura police inspector said he would seek legal opinion and get back.

The video footage of Adi driving his luxury car and deliberately running over an Indie dog, Lara, killing it, had gone viral on social media earlier.

Many animal activists, feeders and animal lovers had visited the spot where Lara was killed, sat in for a protest and silent mourning. They had participated in her funeral where the dog was cremated later at the Sumanahalli animal crematorium.

One of the animal activists said not only that Adi did not show any remorse while he was being released on station bail, but also he threatened the complainant with dire consequences, allegedly telling him that he would take care of him later.

Arun Prasad, an animal activist, told BM that this was not the first time Adi had killed or tried to kill street dogs. "When the police checked the CCTV camera footage, two days before he (Adi) had run over the streetie on 10th B Main killing it, he had also tried to run over another dog using his Pajero car two days ago which was seized by Siddapura cops, subsequently based on complaints from animal activists."

Animal cruelty surpasses limits

Animal lovers are tracing the body of a dead stray dog, which has gone missing from Tilaknagar. The dog, which was allegedly beaten up to death, went missing after one of the residents alerted the animal activists to investigate the case.

Sanjana Narrendra (21), a medical student, has filed a complaint with the Tilaknagar police on Saturday. She said that she along with a group of people in Bengaluru South have been actively volunteering in the animal cruelty and rescue cases. "On Saturday morning, a resident of BHEL Layout contacted us stating that one of the stray dogs was badly beaten up and was about to die. She sent us photos and videos of the dog lying in a pool of blood. After two volunteers reached, they found that the dog had died. While they were investigating, two people approached them and later lured them to the next lane and left abruptly. The duo returned to find that the body was missing. The person who alerted us was also with them the entire time."

She said that while speaking to the security guards, she learnt that there was an auto tipper which picked up the body and left the place. "The body was the only evidence to prove that it was beaten up to death and that it was also missing. We immediately contacted animal husbandry officials, who kept circling the issue. The residents also did not cooperate with us to gather CCTV camera footage. The police too couldn't get the footage from the residents as everyone came up with some or the other excuse."

In another case, a cow which was severely infected with the foot and mouth disease, was left unattended and abandoned by its owner to die in their shed in Gavipuram.

Tarun Agarwal, anti-cruelty officer from People for Animals (PfA), said that after they received the news about the cow last week, he along with other volunteers spoke to the owner who informed them that the cow had infected his other cows as well and three of them had died due to the disease and he was waiting for this cow to die. A complaint was filed with the Kempegowda Nagar police station against the owner for not taking care of the cow and attempting to starve it to death.

He said that the owner had stopped feeding the cow for days as it wasn't milking and he couldn't take care of it further and left it to die. They rescued the cow from him and got it treated before shifting it to a shelter.

-- Pragna L Krupa

Police arrest Bidadi couple's murderer

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

In a swift action, the Bidadi police arrested a 21-year-old man who allegedly killed a retired Airforce pilot and his homemaker wife in a cold-blooded way to rob their valuables.

According to police, soon after the murder, accused Joginder Kumar Yadav managed to get only Rs 56,000 cash and could not carry other valuables. Yadav contacted his relatives for help, but they refused since it was a case of murder. After he went missing the police kept a watch on his wife and other relatives. The cops were tipped off that he was hiding near Bidadi bypass, after which they arrested him.

> **Joginder Kumar Yadav started working in the villa of Raghuram and Asha six months ago to take care of their pet dog and cat**
>
> –Police

Bangalore Mirror

Retd Air Force pilot, wife murdered at their villa

BM's on February 9 reported the couple's murder

Meanwhile, when Raghuram's son, who resides in Delhi, tried to call his parents as usual and did not get any response after his repeated attempts, he called up the building's security guard R Kamal, asking him to go check their house.

When security guard Kamal came to the villa to check on Tuesday afternoon, he confronted Joginder inside the house. His cousin Ravikumar Yadav had already left the house.

Joginder lied to Kamal that the couple had gone to Bengaluru for some work. But when the security guard conveyed the message to the son, he got suspicious and asked the security guard to go check in the house.

When the security guard went inside the house to check and found the door key of Raghuram's bedroom and found the bodies in a pool of blood in the house. Joginder escaped with the cash in his pocket and left behind all the valuables.

Investigations revealed that the accused Yadav started working in the villa of Raghuram and Asha six months ago, taking care of a pet dog and a cat. He had accessed Raghuram's mobile phone and transferred Rs 70,000 to his friend in Bihar a few days ago. Raghuram came to know about the money transfer but thinking that it was a scam, he kept quiet and did not file a complaint.Police said that Yadav shared his plan to murder and rob the couple with his cousin Ravikumar Yadav and roped him promising equal share in the booty.

A special team led by Superintendent of Police, K Santosh Babu has taken Joginder into custody for further investigations.

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Weird flex, not okay

Despite a High Court order, many continue to plaster the city with posters and banners without permission. Palike will track them and take them down

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is on a mission to crack down on those plastering private properties and random spots in the city with hoardings or banners without permission.

In 2018, the High Court (HC) had directed BBMP to take down such banners since they were causing road accidents and distracting motorists. In spite of the order, many banners, pamphlets and other printed materials are seen plastered across stores, trees, streetlights and medians. Now, the civic body is set to take stringent measures to free the city of this. BBMP has appealed to resident welfare associations and citizens to lend it a helping hand by bringing such instances to its notice by calling the zonal control rooms.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta said, "We want to be strict and firm regarding removal of unauthorised flexes. We are seeking the support of people as they may be aware of where these banners are coming from and can inform the central control room or zonal control room. A squad will be sent to the spot which is reported to take the posters down. Despite removing these, we see them emerge again... other advertisements replace the older ones... The idea is to keep continuing the exercise (removal), so people will become aware and not break the law."

As per BBMP outdoor signage and public messaging Bye-laws 2018, advertisements in front of shops, advertisement on vehicles and other small advertisements are permissible for a limited period of time and within limited dimensions (including of PPP scheme). Excluding these, any displaying of billboards of commercial establishments, LED advertisements in residential areas or private properties are banned. These include public and individual advertisements. Palike stated it is seen that certain people still tend to break rules repeatedly which disrupts the flow of traffic and is also detrimental to the aesthetic beauty of the city, besides being harmful for the environment.

"If such unauthorised displays are found, the person concerned will be penalised and the materials will be removed. FIRs will be lodged against the offenders and legal disciplinary action will be taken," Gupta said.

Citizens BM spoke with appreciated the civic body's decision to include the public to enable visible change in society, they wondered if the authorities would act on their word.

"Most banners are put up for politicians on their birthdays or for inaugurations. BBMP will not take down such hoardings, but they will take action when it comes to the common man's flex. The law should apply to everyone. Think of the number of FIRs that can be filed against politicians in this regard. The engineering department and revenue department must be strict and take stringent action," said Peter B Samson, a social worker who has been running #flexmuktaBengaluru.

"Small posters are seen in many places for a longer period of time. Allowing citizens to complain will definitely help BBMP track cases more easily," Apoorva S, resident of Yelahanka, said.

File photo of a banner affecting movement of vehicles, degrading beauty of city. Below: Helpline numbers to report unauthorised ads

> **FIRs will be lodged against the offenders and legal disciplinary action will be taken** – Gaurav Gupta, Chief Commissioner, BBMP

Halt, who speeds there?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cases have hit dead ends, where the traffic police are unable to trace vehicles involved in hit and run, added the senior police officer.

"The speed interceptor deployment started this January and until half of the month, we registered around 73 cases of speeding," said Venkatesh, KS Layout traffic police inspector.

He said they park the speed interceptor vehicle on the stretch of NICE Road that turns towards the left between the Kanakapura toll-gate and Bannerghatta toll-gate as there is ample place on the side of the road for parking the vehicle: "Using a barricade and a placard, our men flag down speeding vehicles as the interceptor records the speeding and beeps. This particular stretch was chosen as on the other stretches of NICE Road, there is hardly any space to park our interceptor vehicle or for vehicles to stop and that could cause obstruction to other vehicle movement," he said.

As the NICE Road vehicle users are still not sensitised about speeding, the traffic cops set a target of 250 cases for the days and between January 15 and January 31, and in that fortnight, the cops managed to book around 250 cases of speeding which has sent a message to the road users.

"The number of accidents have reduced significantly on the stretch of NICE Road that falls under the KS Layout traffic police limits significantly. Earlier, it was the KS Layout traffic police limits that had more accidents reported on the NICE Road stretch," the officer pointed out. "Deployment of speed interceptor is continuing through February too, where around 15 to 25 cases of speeding are being booked each day. "There are bikes that clock 110 km ph that we had flagged down. Many of the speeding vehicles are SUVs and cars including sedans and hatchbacks," Venkatesh said.

"The city traffic police have also written to the NICE authorities to install speed limit sign boards and the penalty for the offence," said Kuldeep Kumar Jain, DCP traffic, West division.

After the cops had written to the NICE management to put up road rumbler strips under the bridges as the stretch of the road was getting bottlenecked, now they have put up the strips under every crossing bridge. They have also installed blinkers, cat eyes and reflectors at specified spots after the cops wrote to them.

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Buck up
RR Nagar

The civic body must finish the repair works here soon as they're affecting the commute of school-going children.

Make way
Vijaynagar

Debris near this manhole is causing traffic issues in this area. The authorities concerned must clear the road.

Security!
Mariyappana Palya

This spot on 80 Feet Road was dug up for civic works. It must be barricaded to prevent accidents.

Metro's trump card

BMRCL to adopt National Common Mobility Card; gates of Phase 1 altered

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Metro users can expect some positive development soon. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) may soon adopt the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC).

BMRCL CPRO Yashavanth Chavan told Bangalore Mirror, "The NCMC is under testing right now. We are just waiting to launch it. All the gates in Phase One have been altered to make them Automatic Fare Collection (AFC) compliant. However, we haven't decided on the launch date yet. At present, we have enabled it for travel-related payments, however it depends on other stakeholders to be on the same open-loop system to utilise it everywhere." The NCMC system is likely to be launched in February.

Meanwhile, many Bengalureans are requesting the BMRCL to adopt the Chennai model. Passengers in Tamil Nadu capital may soon walk into metro stations to board a train and be able to use a smartcard to park their vehicle, shop, and, perhaps in future, even tap it to travel in a bus.

In Chennai, the installation of card readers have begun in metro stations and a trial is expected soon.

Commenting on whether BMRCL will be enabling NCMC for payment for metro parking and shopping inside metro stations, Chavan added, "Basically it's a bank-issued card and the extent of services available to the public under this umbrella will be dependent on the services that will be open towards this system. The bank issuing the card will have a say on where and how this card will be utilised."

NCMCs will be an open loop card compared with the closed-loop smartcard we have right now. The NCMC, envisaged by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and launched in 2019, enables seamless travel by metro rail, bus and other transport systems besides retail shopping and purchasing and banking transactions.

Officials said NCMC-compliant RuPay debit cards will work similar to the existing contactless metro rail smartcards. Nonetheless, unlike the smartcards, which can be used only for Metro rides and for parking vehicles in stations, the NCMCs can also be used in other modes of transport.

These cards could also be used in Metro rail facilities in other cities in the country. Already, Metro rail in Bengaluru and Delhi are readying to launch the facility.

The other difference between existing Metro smartcards and NCMC is that the ticket amount is stored in the former in a prepaid format and deducted at the gates while using the latter would involve a bank transaction. It will be a transaction between the card issuing bank and the acquirer bank that will partner with CMRL to enable fare collection.

NCMC and QR-code tickets will be given priority over the existing smartcard and the tokens. We are also working to launch account-based ticketing where passengers can use their credit or debit card directly to tap on the AFC gates and walk in," a Metro official said.

The National Common Mobility Card enables customers to make use of their existing debit or credit cards for payments across all segments including metro, bus, suburban railways, toll, parking, smart city and retail. The stored value on the card supports offline transactions across all travel needs with minimal financial risk for stakeholders. The service area feature of this card supports operator specific applications, including monthly passes and season tickets among other facilities.

Guess what? There's a dip in city's traffic congestion

| Prakash VL
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

- City's traffic congestion levels down by 32 per cent
- Better adaptability to hybrid work cultures seen as a contributor
- City slipped to 10th position from being the most congested city in the world during pre-Covid in 2019.
- Bengaluru saw its worst congestion levels during the monsoon, when waterlogged roads led to more traffic snarls.

Bengaluru ranks 10th in the world in terms of traffic congestion. The latest TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 list features Bengaluru as the second worst affected city in terms of traffic congestion in the country after Mumbai (fifth place globally) followed by New Delhi (11th) and Pune (21st). The 11th edition of the annual TomTom Traffic Index has analysed detailing traffic trends seen in 404 cities in 58 countries, throughout 2021.

The only consolation is that Bengaluru slipped to the 10th position from last year's sixth spot and saw a 32 per cent average decrease in congestion compared to the pre-Covid period in 2019, with 49 per cent and 37 per cent average decrease in congestion during morning and evening rush hours respectively. The remarkable shift happened within two years, when it ranked as one of the two most congested cities globally in 2019.

The report states that 2021 was the year where changes in our working habits were solidified: the home office is becoming a standard for many companies; teleconferences have replaced physical meetings and flexible work hours allow many commuters to avoid and offset their rush hours. As a consequence, peak hours have shifted in almost 40 per cent of the cities worldwide. "Bengaluru's congestion levels came down to 48 points in 2021 from 71 points in 2019, which means a 32 per cent decrease.

City saw its worst traffic on Oct 9, 2021

So, when did Bengaluru see its worst traffic congestion? According to the report, the city saw its worst traffic day on October 9, 2021, when heavy rains caused certain waterlogged pockets causing widespread traffic logjams and increase in congestion levels. While congestion levels in Bengaluru have gone down, the number of private vehicles has increased because people found them an easier means to maintain social distance safely, keeping the congestion lower than last year. At the same time, both the civic body and masses have encouraged the adoption of EVs in the city.

» No gathering allowed near schools, colleges
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City getting 4 more smart parking spots

BBMP taking this step to ensure public convenience in city's busy areas

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A few years after the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) introduced the smart parking system, the palike has identified four locations to set up the system by February end. In the year 2020, over 10 central business district (CBD) areas got the smart parking system installed.

Commercial Street, Dickenson Road, Brigade Road and Lavelle Road will get the smart parking system.

Just a few weeks ago, the Bengaluru Smart City Limited (BSCL) completed smart city works on Commercial Street, and after a long gap, vehicles were again being allowed to park on the stretch. Though there are some private operators who charge for the parking spot, the BBMP has decided to permanently introduce smart parking on this stretch.

Even Brigade Road already has an automated parking meter installed by the Brigade Road Shops and Establishments Associations, however the BBMP have decided to talk to the association if they could have the smart parking system in place.

An official from BBMP Traffic engineering cell (TEC) said, "Commercial streets have now been developed and bringing in a proper parking system in place would be beneficial. As of now, some private players charge the citizens on hourly basis. Bringing in a permanent system will be beneficial. At Brigade Road, we will have talks with the association and decide what needs to be done. Lavelle Road and Dickenson Road are places where one finds issue to get a parking spot. By bringing in the smart parking system, it will be beneficial for the public at large."

In 2020, over 10 Central Business District areas got the smart parking system installed

So far, 10 streets which have the smart parking system, include Cunningham Road, Kasturba Road, Church Street, Residency Road, Mallya Hospital Road, Ali Asker Road, Museum Road Cross, ST Marks Road and MG Road.

A total of 254 spaces will be allotted for four-wheelers in the new locations. Commercial Street has 80 parking spaces, Dickenson Road with 70, Brigade Road with 90 and Lavelle Road will get eight car parking spaces. While for two-wheelers, 27 parking spots were selected, including 30 on Lavelle Road. "So far these locations have got a good response. There has also been good revenue for BBMP," said the official from TEC.

> **Roads of Commercial Street have now been developed and bringing in a proper parking system in place will be beneficial for the public**
> –BBMP traffic engg cell official

The parking fee will mostly be the same as the earlier spots. The pricing will be divided depending on zones A, B and C, where the localities are included. On an hourly basis, a four-wheeler will be charged Rs 30 and two-wheeler 15 in A zone, while B zone will include Rs 20 for four-wheeler and Rs 10 for two-wheeler, the C zone, Rs 115 will be charged for four-wheeler and Rs 5 for two-wheeler.

A kiosk will be installed, where one can park, or they could even pay and park through the online application.

On the expiry of the said time, people can recharge from anywhere through the app. If the car is parked beyond the time period paid for, then the vehicle will be clamped and the owner will have to pay a fine.

Official from TEC said, "People can easily find parking spots and it will also ease traffic congestion. Further even haphazard parking will be stopped, where one parks on the footpath and leaves or does not follow lane discipline while parking."

Stamp duty amendment gets govt's nod

In a move that will help big companies, the cabinet has okayed the Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) bill 2022, fixing maximum Rs 25 crore as the stamp fee on valuation and share holding, during the merger or bifurcation of a company, which is on par with Maharashtra.

As the stamp duty was high, several big companies during merger and bifurcation were avoiding registration in Karnataka, so it was decided to fix the fee, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister JC Madhuswamy said.

Among the other decisions taken by the cabinet were approval for the revised estimate of Rs 16.28 crore for the constructions of mini Vidhana Soudha (to house government offices) at Kumta in Uttara Kannada district, also administrative approval for an estimate of Rs 560 crore, for the construction of Anubhava Mantapa at Basavakalyan. The government has also given its nod for projects under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in various parts of the state, and has mandated that the work should be completed in a time bound manner.

Advocate gets bail in law intern harassment case

Karnataka High Court has granted conditional bail to advocate K S N Rajesh, who was in custody in connection with a sexual harassment case filed against him by a law intern.

The bench has directed the accused to inform police if he is moving out of Mangaluru town, not to indulge in destruction of evidence, and threaten the victim. The accused walked out of prison after one and a half months of his arrest. The victim law graduate student has filed a case of sexual harassment against Rajesh on October 18.

Meanwhile, the police department has suspended two of its officers including a lady sub-inspector for dereliction of duty in connection with the case and had arrested three persons. The department had issued a lookout notice through Intelligence Bureau to all the airports to prevent him from escaping. **–IANS**

No gathering allowed near schools, colleges

The ban, imposed over hijab row, will continue till Feb 22

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In a bid to thwart any protest in Bengaluru, the city police have prohibited gatherings, agitations or protests within a 200-m radius from the gates of schools, PUs, degree colleges or other similar educational institutions for two weeks with immediate effect, following developments around the hijab controversy in the State.

The order will remain in effect till February 22. An official order issued by City Police Commissioner N Kamal Pant highlighted that in the last few days, protests and agitations have been held in connection with strict enforcement of schools/colleges Uniform Rules. "At some places, the protests have led to violence, disturbing public peace and order. Since the possibility of similar agitations or protests being held in Bengaluru cannot be ruled out, it is very essential to initiate proper security measures to maintain public peace and order," it read.

Members of the National Students Union of India stage protest over the Hijab row in Bengaluru on Wednesday

A larger bench to hear the case on Wednesday. A single-judge bench of the Karnataka High Court, hearing petitions in the matter, on Wednesday referred the case to a larger bench. "This is a fit case for inquiry by the Chief Justice. The bench of the Chief Justice has the authority to form an extended bench to hear the case. This matter needs urgent hearing, submit complaints and documents to the bench of Chief Justice," Justice Krishna S Dixit said.

The decision on interim order regarding uniform and wearing of hijab shall also be taken by the Chief Justice, he added. "There are questions related to the Constitution and there are aspects related to personal laws. Half a dozen court verdicts have been discussed. Let the Chief Justice decide on handing over the matter to an extended bench," Justice Dixit said.

Soon after the hearing resumed, the bench told the petitioners that if they agree, the matter would be handed over to the extended bench. "I have verified the documents submitted regarding the case. There is a necessity to hand over the case to an extended bench," Dixit added.

However, counsel for the students requested the bench to give an interim order as only two months are left for this academic year. They sought an order on Wednesday only so that students could go to colleges. Advocate General Prabhuling Navadagi, appearing for the government, submitted that everyone is looking forward to the court's ruling. He also prayed against an interim order as it would amount to acceptance of the petition submitted.

(With inputs from agencies)

Taking the fall

Dry leaves spread like a carpet in Cubbon Park as the city transitions from winter to summer.

3 Indian pairs make Bengaluru Open quarterfinals

The top-seeded Indian team of Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Purav Raja moved to the doubles quarterfinals of the Bengaluru Open after prevailing against Croatia's Borna Gojo and Bulgaria's Dimitar Kuzmanov, here on Wednesday. The Indian team had to be on its toes as it eked out a tough 6-4 6-7 (2) 10-8 win over the alternate entrants.

Also moving to the last-eight pairs stage were Ramnkumar Ramanathan and Saketh Myneni and the team of N Sriram Balaji and Vishnu Vardhan. Ramkumar and Myneni had an easy day, beating Markos Kalovelonis (GRE) and Toshihide Matsui (JPN) 6-3 6-3 but Balaji and Vardhan had to work hard in getting past Mathias Bourgue (FRA) and Kimmer Coppejans (BEL) 6-4 4-6 10-3. In the singles, fourth seed Hugo Grenier of France lost 1-6 4-6 to Chun-hsin Tseng of Taipei and qualifier Borna Gojo of Croatia sent third seed Australian Aleksandar Vukic home with a 7-5, 6-3 victory to advance to the quarterfinals.

Another qualifier Gabriel Decamps of Brazil ousted Italian Gian Marco Moroni 6-2 5-7, 7-6 (3) in an epic three-hour five minute battle.

Meanwhile, India's Prajnesh Gunneswaran will take on top seed Jiri Vesely of Czech Republic on Thursday. – PTI

Citizens can't locate bus shelters, they say

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in some of the important locations on a priority basis; we will finish the work soon."

Frequent bus commuters said that it is an everyday ordeal for one to stand and wait for buses without shelters — for instance, a regular, Shaheen Shasa, who is also a member of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV), told BM that in the Marathahalli to Shivajinagar bus route, there are no bus shelters near Mayo Hall or Richmond Town. "People are waiting for buses on the pavements. Especially, when it is sunny, it is so problematic for the citizens, as they do not have a place to rest. While some buses arrive on time, some are delayed and many are left waiting, standing for a long time," said Shasa.

Shasa also added that there are instances where people wouldn't have a clue where to wait for the buses as there is no bus shelter at all. "At South End Circle, near the metro station, I couldn't find a bus shelter; I was confused where to stand. I saw an elderly man standing on the pavement and asked him if that was the bus stop; he said yes and that's how I got to know. As it was taking longer for the bus to arrive, the senior citizen sat waiting on the pavement; there was no other facility."

It was also pointed out that some places have many bus shelters at a single location. For example, at Trinity Circle, there are three bus shelters; however, nobody knows why there are so many, whether it is because various bus services arrive at different shelters or due to overcrowding in one of the bus stops. Commuters said none of the shelters are crowded.

Many citizens who are concerned about the matter do inquire at the BMTC about the lack of bus shelters — oftentimes, the transport body blatantly states that it's the BBMP that has to construct the bus shelters.

Commuters are of the view that the BMTC should feel responsible for commuters' experience and follow up with the BBMP and other agencies to get the proposed bus shelters constructed.

Most of the passengers are seen getting drenched during the rainy season waiting for buses, while some are seen carrying umbrellas and waiting. Some of them stated that due to a lack of lights in bus shelters it is quite unsafe during the dark hours. "The bus shelters do not have any lighting and during the night it is unsafe. At times, buses stop far from the shelters and people risk it by running behind the buses. All of this needs to be looked into," said Shasa.

While BM tried contacting BMTC for a comment, it remained unresponsive.

The night of 1991 when Lata sang to Bangalore

That date was 1st of December, 1991. The venue: Kanteerava stadium. How do we know this? From the carefully preserved - and autographed by Lata herself - ticket of septuagenarian Sheshadri Mokshagundam, who not only got to hear her live in that concert but also was the designated volunteer to look after the VVIP visitor to Bangalore.

Now 72, Sri Sheshadri's voice turns child-like while saying how he got roped in to be on the organising committee of the program. It was organised by the RP Goenka group, that owned the erstwhile HMV, known to generations of Indians as the ultimate repository of sound recording and publishing copyrights of Indian music across multiple languages.

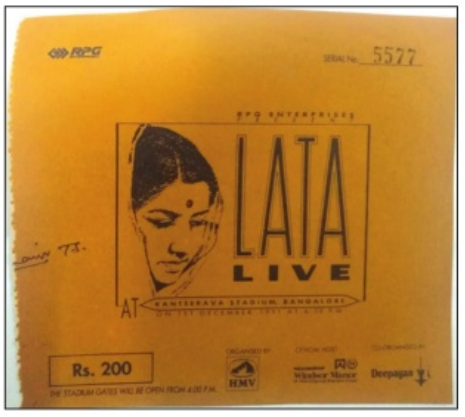
Sheshadri can't thank cousin MK Kumar enough for the experience.

"Lata avaru arrived in Bangalore on November 29 with sister Usha Mangeshkar and Sanjeev Kohli (iconic music composer Madan Mohan's son)," he says, recalling how disappointed he was that someone else was sent to pick her up from the airport despite him being the one officially chosen for the role.

Anil Mohle was the conductor of the live orchestra. Harish Bhimani, he of the booming voice that would say 'Main Samay Hun' amidst a revolving image of the cosmos in the Mahabharata serial on Doordarshan back then, was the show anchor. Roger Drego, the sound engineer. "I imagined that someone like her would sing straight away on stage, but there were two rehearsals in the Windsor manor where she stayed as well," he goes on to reminisce.

Two things struck Sheshadri, known to friends as Shesh & himself an acclaimed painter and the great grand-nephew of Bharat Ratna Mokshagundam Vishweshwariah: The aura she had, and the meticulous sound check that was done. "There was a silence the moment she entered the rehearsal room, one that had an air of reverence. All the musicians were ready too and once the music began, it felt divine." He recalls how at Kanteerava where a special enclosure was built for the program (not the stadium that we see today), Usha Mangeshkar would stand at different points while Lata sang, and give her feedback to the sound in-charge.

Lata, he said, would be barefoot even during the rehearsals. Basically once she stood before the mike, no slippers. "Even when she performed abroad that was the norm. So some people would organise a small carpet for her to stand on." Expectedly, the venue was jampacked, though much of the crowd, Shesh recalls, was the kind that "one would see in an MS Subbulakshmi concert, especially the women traditionally clad in sarees and diamond ear and nose studs". Film stars were in attendance, recalling moments of him and other volunteers leading Kannada superstars Vishnuvardhan Srinath and Ambareesh to the front seats. There were dog squads to check the venue and Z-security or its equivalent of the time, as there were rumours of an LTTE threat on VIPs like her. (Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had been assassinated 7 months earlier.)



The ticket of the event in 1991

A night of melody

The crowd loved all the Lata hits of the day that filled the night air at Kanteerava facing Cubbon Park. Did she sing the Kannada song she sang on screen, I ask, Bellane belagayithu. "No, but I recall there was a famous Rajan Nagendra song that was specially translated for the occasion and set to Hindi, that she rendered beautifully."

Actor and superstar of her times, B Saroja Devi, spoke on stage, saying, "It was because of you that I got into films". To a surprised Lata and the audience, the veteran actor then revealed that back in her St Teresa school in Chamarajpet, she had sung 'Yeh Zindagi usi ki hai' from the 1953-hit Anarkali at a function that got noticed, paving the path for her future.

It was the next morning though that turned out to be the surprise package for Sheshadri. Lata had had a morning meet over coffee with the then Chief Minister of Karnataka, Sri Bangarappa. From there, she was taken to visit the Devagiri Balaji temple in Banashankari 2nd stage as she was an ardent devotee of the deity at Tirupati. She then expressed her desire to also visit Bangalore's historic Gavi Gangadhareshwara temple in Gavipuram, saying she had heard so much about it.

Cousin Kumar called up Shesh and asked him to come and escort the special guest to the temple. "Standing behind her as a special archane was done, I overheard that her janma nakshatra (birth star) was Ashlesha," chuckles the man who himself has organised many fundraiser music programmes in Bangalore over the years.

Someone at the temple summoned a photographer hurriedly who came, took pictures of Lata and those around her, and was never to be found again! Not a single image remains, Shesh rues, but what does are memories that can fill an album and then some more. Besides her autograph on his 500-rupee ticket from that night, and a book with unsold concert tickets; tickets that were held back in fact by the organisers to let in all students free of cost to hear Lata's voice that was anyway Priceless.

— By Vasanthi Hariprakash

(The writer is a journalist and former radio jockey of Bangalore's airwaves, who interviewed the likes of legends Manna De and Asha Bhonsle at their homes and in her primetime show, but never got to speak to or even see Lata Mangeshkar once)

HEALTH TIP: Jaggery is considered to be a natural detoxifier that detoxifies blood and lungs and increases the efficiency of lungs

Popcorn is loaded with polyphenols, an antioxidant that can help to reduce inflammation

BangaloreMirror 9
Thursday, February 10, 2022
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BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am a 24-year-old woman and my boyfriend is 27. Will taking emergency contraceptives such as the I-Pill or My Pal (Pfizer) cause complications in pregnancy in the future?
The emergency pill is not recommended as a birth control pill because of the high content of hormone in the tablet.

2 Iam a 33-year-old man. I have never been sexually involved with anyone. For the past few months, when passing urine or discharging semen while masturbating, I have experienced a burning sensation. I've undergone a urine test and no infection or pus cells have been detected. I do not smoke or drink. Please help.
Smoking and drinking have no connection with the sensation. They have other repercussions on sexual behaviour. Do you leave drops of urine behind? This can cause irritation. Do not rub your penis tip while masturbating.

3 My husband and I have been married for the past six years. During the first year of our marriage, we enjoyed a very active sex life. However, for the past few years, we have been having sex only once a month. He is 35-years-old and is always stressed because of his work. He has lost all interest in sex. Can some medicine naturally up his sex drive?
You have identified the cause. Your husband is married to his work and is stressed. The best thing you can do is go for a holiday. At that time, remind him that unlike his job, a wife will be by his side and take care of him. She also has rights in her marriage. When you return, ensure that he exercises and takes quality time out from his work.

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Fertile food

Embracing the correct food habit can ensure that your reproductive system is healthy

Kayalvizhi Arivalan
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Eating unhealthy foods has always been linked to health problems. A number of studies have suggested that some foods may have a negative impact on fertility. Over the last ten years, the rate of infertility has gradually increased. The right choice of food can have a favourable impact on reproductive health in various ways. Foods that assist reproductive activities, enhance the health of a woman's eggs and a man's sperm, and supply essential nutrients for hormonal functions, production, and balance should be made part of one's diet.

"About 15-20% of all couples trying to conceive suffer from infertility, which is caused by factors of both genders. As a result, it's critical for couples to understand what foods can harm their gametes and it is best to avoid them," says Dr. Ila Gupta, Senior IVF Consultant and Clinical Director at Fertility Fertility Clinics, who lists foods to avoid in order to improve fertility chances.

Processed meats and canned foods
Processed meats include hot dogs, salami, etc. consumption of large quantities of processed foods is associated with decreased sperm count and sperm motility. Canned foods contain bisphenol-A (BPA) which also exerts a negative effect on sperm motility.

Trans fatty acid
Fast foods are a source of trans fat which is found to play an important role in increasing the risk of heart disease. However, it is also found to adversely affect spermatogenesis and consequently the sperm count and decreased sperm motility in men. Similarly in women, intake of high amounts of trans fatty acid also exerts a negative effect on fertility by increasing the risk of ovulatory disturbances.

Soy products
Few studies have found that consuming excessive soy might be associated with decreased sperm concentration. Soy products contain estrogen-like compounds from plants which might affect the sperm concentration.

Vegetables and fruits with chemicals & pesticides
Pesticides are found in vegetables, fruits and even in meat and fish due to polluted water. Similar to soy products, pesticides also secrete chemicals that mimics estrogen which might decrease the sperm count.

Dairy products
Consuming high-fat dairy products like whole milk, cream and cheese are found to be associated with decreased sperm motility and abnormal sperm shape. This might be associated with cows and buffalos receiving sex steroids which are secreted in milk. Contrary to that in women, consuming high fat dairy products may have a positive impact on fertility. All the hormones in the body are made from fat and cholesterol. So, consuming low fat dairy products do not provide sufficient building blocks for hormones which might lead to ovulatory disorders.

Alcohol
In men, daily consumption of alcohol leads to increased DNA fragmentation. It also has adverse effect on semen volume and sperm morphology. All these factors collectively have negative effect on fertilization. Alcohol decreases the liver's ability to metabolize hormones. So in women, consumption of alcohol leads to hormonal imbalance and consecutively to ovulatory disorders.

Red meat
Excessive intake of red meat may adversely affect the sperm quality. Also, it has been found that women who consume more red meat are found to have more risk of ovulatory disorders. Although direct association of adverse effect of consumption of meat on fertility has not been found. But women whose source of iron is primarily vegetables are found to have less ovulatory disorders.

Sugar
Consuming foods rich in sugar have numerous known adverse effects like weight gain which itself is a high risk for chronic diseases like diabetes mellitus, hypertension. Similarly, it is associated with adverse effects on fertility as in women it might lead to hormonal disorders and in men it might be associated with decreased sperm motility.

It is also very important for both partners to have optimum weight. Body mass index of 18-25 is associated with a positive impact on fertility. Both high and low BMI is associated with irregular periods and hormonal disturbances in women affecting fertility. Although more scientific studies are needed to prove the relation between food and infertility, few studies support that consuming above foods have adverse effect on fertility and couples who are planning for pregnancy should avoid these in their daily diet and make all possible effort to maintain optimum weight for better outcome.

MIRRORLIGHTS

Dating deal breakers for singles

The last two years of lockdowns and social distancing restrictions have altered how people connect online and what they seek when looking for a partner. Bumble, the women-first dating app, reveals the dating deal breakers for single Indians ahead of Valentine's Day.

Clear dating intentions
Who doesn't want to be on the same page as their friends? Not having clear dating intentions can be a deal breaker for 66 per cent of single Indians polled as they embrace dating in 2022.

Aligned on political leanings
For Gen Z and young millennials in India, political views are becoming increasingly important. According to Bumble's research, not agreeing on political views can be a deal breaker when it comes to dating. 46 percent of single Indians polled say they will not date someone

with opposing political views.

Vaccinated or not
For daters in India, adhering to safety protocols is still critical. Almost one-third (27 per cent) of Indians polled prefer not to go on a date without first discussing covid-related safety precautions and health concerns, and up to 42 per cent say they will not go on a date or have sex with someone who has not received the covid-19 vaccine.

Bumble has added a Covid Preferences Center to the Bumble app, which can be accessed by tapping the profile icon.

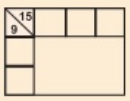
This will help normalise and better facilitate conversations about dating during the pandemic.

—IANS

mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

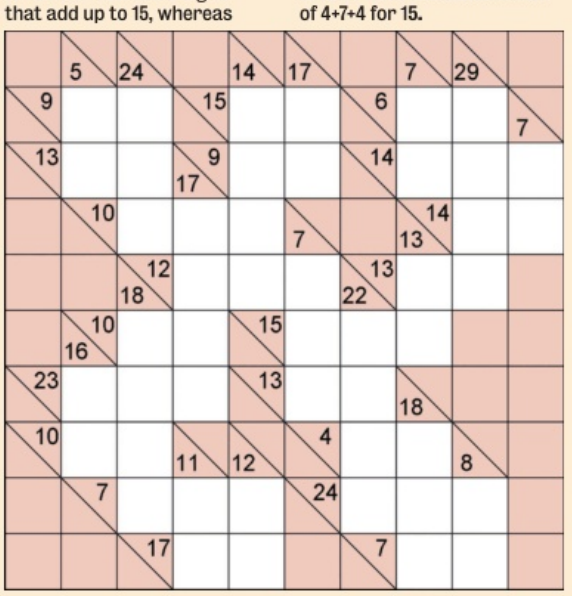
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

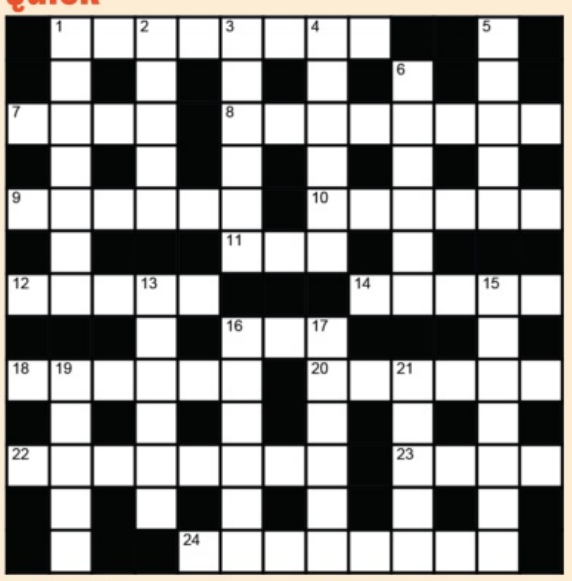


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Temporarily puts a stop to (8)
7 This one's __ __ : I'll pay the bill? (2,2)
8 Comes to awareness (8)
9 Backless seats (6)
10 Tabulated, calculated or recorded? (6)
11 Not bold (3)
12 Hoard (5)
14 Narrow street (5)
16 International Standard Atmosphere (3)
18 Multi-cuisine restaurant on Cunningham Road (6)
20 Didn't fail? (6)
22 A receding ___ : signs of growing bald? (8)
23 Clear of costs (4)
24 Used or engaged or utilised (8)

DOWN

1 Singers Frank and Nancy (7)
2 Dictation taker (5)
3 Way out, exit (6)
4 Fatal or lethal (6)
5 Morsel (5)
6 Motor fuel (6)
13 Risk; exposure to danger (6)
15 Selected by vote (7)
16 Feeble in body and health (6)
17 Plea or petition (6)
19 Weighty (5)
21 Shining, light-hearted (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: U EQUALS G

OL RAX YAZ'F NOQM FVM CAJY RAX'CM EJNQOZU, IFJCF SJKOZU JZAFVMC AZM.

Linemaro

I don't dance. But I'd love to hold you while you do

Mindchow

Go to Heaven for the climate and to Hell for the company

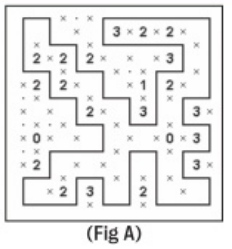
Joke of the day

Guy1: Somebody said you sounded like an owl.
Guy2: Who?

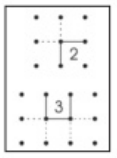
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



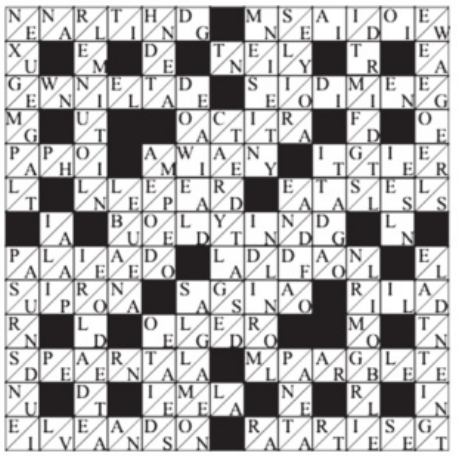
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

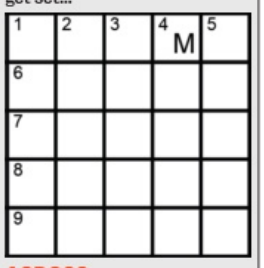
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

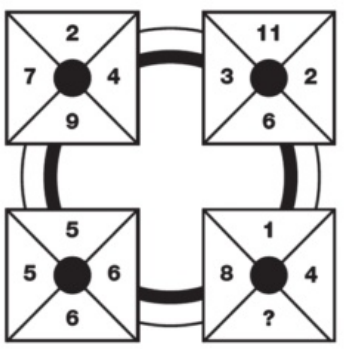
1 Clams; 6 It Ido;
7 In Goa; 8 To bar;
9 Sores

DOWN

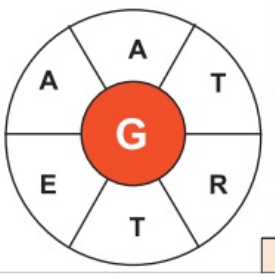
1 I crag; 2 Boa do;
3 Lions; 4 I Rome;
5 Sat ST

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 09 Outstanding

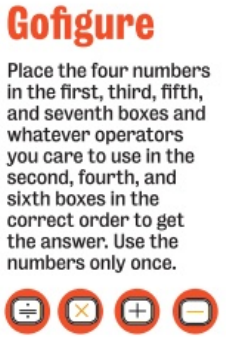
SudokuChallenge

		7				9		
	8	5				7	6	
			5		9			
2			8		1			5
5			7	3	4			2
6			9		2			7
			4		6			
	4	1				3	8	
		2				5		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 17

1 3 7 8

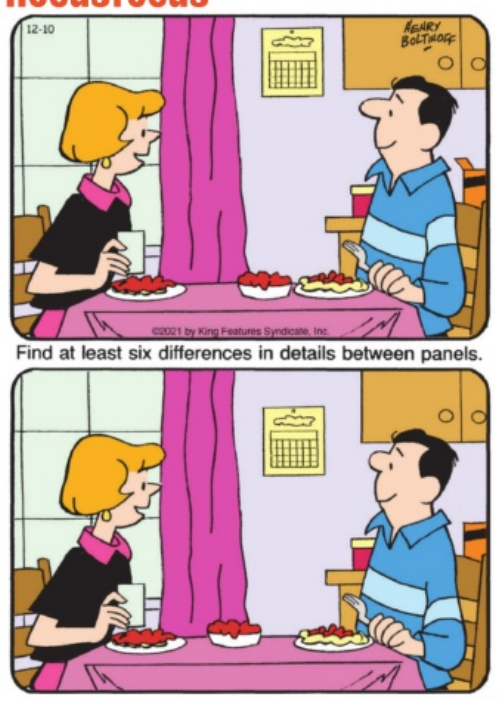
Medium = 14

1 2 6 7

Hard = 45

2 5 7 4

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

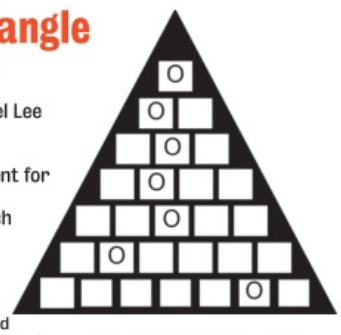
Differences: 1. Bowl is moved. 2. Box flap is missing. 3. Calendar is lower. 4. Stripe on sleeve is lower. 5. Cabinet is not as wide. 6. Nose is smaller.

Riddler

Can you work out which is the odd one out and why? Jackson, Collins, Denver, Austin?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number 8
2 Opus, abbr.
3 Author of Annabel Lee
4 Brood
5 Preamble
6 One-piece garment for children
7 Supreme monarch

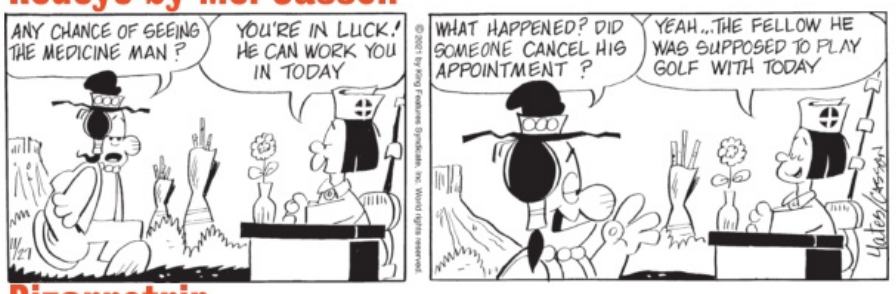


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

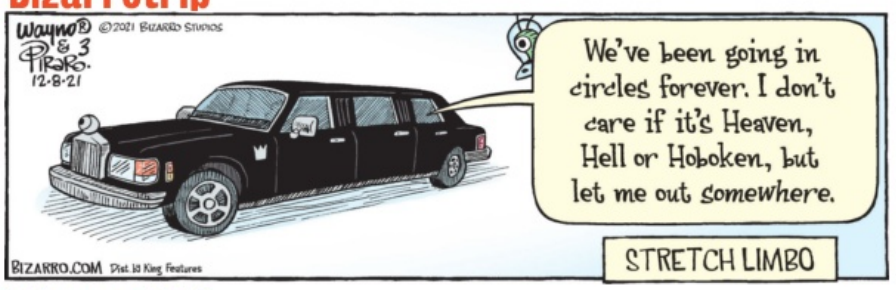
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson


ANY CHANCE OF SEEING THE MEDICINE MAN ?
YOU'RE IN LUCK! HE CAN WORK YOU IN TODAY
WHAT HAPPENED? DID SOMEONE CANCEL HIS APPOINTMENT ?
YEAH...THE FELLOW HE WAS SUPPOSED TO PLAY GOLF WITH TODAY

Bizarrotrip


Wayno & 3 Piers. 12-8-21
©2021 Bizarro Studios
We've been going in circles forever. I don't care if it's Heaven, Hell or Hoboken, but let me out somewhere.
STRETCH LIMBO
BIZARRO.COM Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

I SAW THAT NEW DOLL IN THE STORE TODAY
IT'S CALLED "CATTY KAREN"
WHAT'S IT DO?
YOU WIND HER UP AND SHE SPEAKS TO YOUR MANAGER
©2021 creators.com 12/8
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

I'M LEARNING TO SEW, SO I CAN MAKE US COSTUMES FOR THE CONVENTION!
COSPLAY?!
MAN, THIS IS ALREADY BETTER THAN ANY $20 SECRET SANTA GIFT ANYONE COULD GET ME.
YEAH, GOOD LUCK TO YOUR SECRET SANTA.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2021 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
12/11

Crankshaft

YOUR BOOK TALK AND SLIDES ARE ALL LOADED ONTO YOUR SMART PAD.
YOU'RE ALL SET!
WILL IT GO OUT AND GIVE MY TALKS FOR ME?
YOU'RE NOT QUITE THAT ALL SET.
BATIUK & DAVIS
12-4

Mutts

I DIDN'T KNOW SANTA HAD A KITTY!
NO-BODY DOES, MOOCH!
—THAT PUSHY RUDOLPH GETS ALL THE ATTENTION!
IT'S THAT RED NOSE!
Ho! IT'S THAT BROWN NOSE.
mutts.com
12-15

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things which may increase your financial health. You may be more creative today; you may use your creativity to decorate your office or home which may enhance your social status. Lovebirds are likely to get some support from their family members to maintain their relationship status. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you will be blessed by the moon which may give you peace of mind. Externally, you may face some work-related stress but your inner sense may be calm and cool which may help you to balance everything. You may enjoy every moment in work and domestic life. Some new sources of income may open which may help you to boost your savings.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel dull today. You may face some old health issues. You are likely to be a victim of fatigue which might make you arrogant. Your arrogance may affect your domestic harmony. Your profits may convert into losses. You are advised to think twice before doing any type of financial transaction.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel inner strength. Your losses may convert into profit, which may increase your business growth and liquidity. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to take some difficult decisions in business. Your performance at work may be praised by your seniors. You may also expect to get incentives which may increase savings.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be busy at work; your wisdom may help you to take the right decision which may increase your business. You are likely to get a big order which may expand your work. You may utilise your creativity to renovate your home or office which may improve your social status. You may invest in some creative asset also.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today situations are under control; you may be able to come out from the past day's messy situation. You may work with patience which may reflect in your way of working. You may plan for an outing; students may focus well towards their goals. Singles may find their love with the help of friends or relatives.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may feel unhappy. You may be impatient; you may be victim of mood swings which may reflect in your domestic life harmony. You are advised to avoid arrogance at work otherwise you may create hidden enemies around you. You are advised to avoid rash driving.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be happy. You may spread happiness around you; you may feel harmony in personal life; you may enjoy some romantic moments with the spouse. Your family may support you to take some important decisions; you may also take some important decisions on the professional front. You may expect some new ventures or partnerships in the business.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, a positive moon may make you happy. You may use your patience at work. Your performance may be good in the job; you may get some incentives in terms of rewards. Health-related issues of family members will be resolved now. Job aspirants are likely to get good job. Lovebirds may enjoy their quality time.

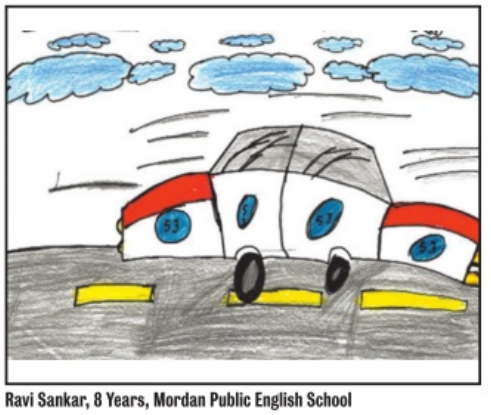
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may help the needy. It may increase your reputation in the society. You might implement the innovation in your work which may increase your business. Positive result may make you happy. Lovebirds may plan for outing or some adventure tour.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be dissatisfied; you may have some sort of detachment for your responsibilities which may make you confused. You may plan hypothetically for your projects. You are advised to be practical in your work to complete it on time. You may also take care of your parents. It is advised to postpone migrating somewhere for some days. You should also wait for a while before acting.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be enthusiastic; you may be more focused which may speed up your postponed projects. Your siblings may help you to start some new project, which may give you profits in the near future. You may expect some short trips related to your family issues. Job seekers may hear good news in terms of a new job.

KIDZONE

Dhanush Hemanth, 4 Years, Bengaluru



Ravi Sankar, 8 Years, Mordan Public English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
=(10*8)/(64-60).^2+25
=80/16+25
=5+25
=30

BULL'S EYE
agar, agate, gate, gear, grate, great, rage, RGGATTA, target

STRIKE OUT

E	A	L	I	N	G	M	E	A	D	O	W			
		E		D		T	I	L	E	R				
X		D		T	I	L	E	R		A				
E	N	N	E	A	D		S	I	D	I	N	G		
M		T		O	C	T	A		F		E			
P	H	I		A	W	A	Y		I	T	E	R		
T		L	E	P	E	R		E	A	S	E	S		
	A		B	O	L	I	T	I	N	G		L		
C	A	C	H	E			A	L	L	E	Y			
		R		S	H	Y		E						
S	T	O	T	O	L	S		L	I	S	T	E	D	
A		N		E		D		E		C				
O	N	M	E		R	E	A	L	I	S	E	S		
		I		T		G		E		D		I		
S	U	S	P	E	N	D	S		P					

QUICK

														Y
						E	M	P	L	O	Y	E	D	
													E	
														V
														E
														S
														L
														A
														L
														R
														S
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														E
														S
														S

MENSA PUZZLE
9. In each square of the diagram, the sum of the numbers is always 22.

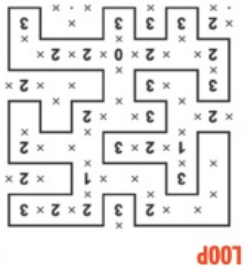
SUDOKU

1	2	7	6	4	8	9	5	3
4	3	6	5	7	9	1	2	8
9	8	5	1	2	3	7	6	4
2	7	3	8	6	1	4	9	5
5	9	8	7	3	4	6	1	2
6	1	4	9	5	2	8	3	7
3	5	9	4	8	6	2	7	1
7	4	1	2	9	5	3	8	6
8	6	2	3	1	7	5	4	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
0, Op, Poe, Mope, Prorem, Romper, Emperor.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 3 − 1 + 8 = 17
Medium
6 + 2 − 1 + 7 = 14
Hard
2 + 5 x 7 − 4 = 45

LOOP



KAKURO

FAST FIVE

C	A	L	M	S
I	D	I	O	T
G	O	N	I	A
A	B	O	R	T
R	O	S	E	S

QUOTE UNCODE
If you don't like the road you're walking, start paving another one.

RIDDLER
Collins – the others are American state capitals

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See Bhumi is draped in love

Bhumi Pednekar and Rajkummar Rao are currently on a promotional spree for their upcoming film, 'Badhaai Do'. Recently, they appeared on Kapil Sharma's comedy show. For the show, Bhumi wore a customised saree.

Her saree featured the word 'love' woven with a red thread in different languages. The host Kapil was all praise for Bhumi's look. He said that she is already beautiful and on top of that she is wearing a saree. He further asked the actress what was written on her saree. Pednekar revealed that her saree has love written in different languages.

Bhumi Pednekar further revealed that whenever she comes to his show wearing a saree, her movies become successful. After that Rajkummar chipped in and said that you should have said this before even he would have worn a saree. His epic reply left everyone in splits.

Speaking about 'Badhaai Do', it is a spiritual sequel to Junglee Pictures' 'Badhaai Ho' from 2018. Featuring Rajkummar Rao and Bhumi Pednekar in unique roles, the film depicts a marriage of convenience. It is a light-hearted spin on an unusual problem faced by a middle-class home in the heartland of India. The film also stars Chum Darang, Seema Pahwa, Sheeba Chadha, Lovleen Mishra, Nitish Pandey and Shashi Bhushan in key roles. Directed by Harshavardhan Kulkarni, 'Badhaai Do' will release in cinemas on February 11.

Kriti's tryst with stardom in the South

Kriti Kharbanda who began her journey in showbiz with a south film, went on to do more than a dozen regional films before she made a debut in Bollywood. As she continues to do more and more Hindi films, the actress likes to pick up south films in between. As she enjoys popularity in multiple industries today, Kriti looks back at the time when she witnessed stardom at the time she was new down south.

The actress who grew up in Bengaluru says, "When I was a kid, I used to only watch Bollywood movies. I didn't watch Kannada cinema. So I didn't know much about their actors and the fandom they receive. It is only after I became an actor did I realise the real power of a star."

Sharing a memory, she adds, "I remember I had a film releasing co-starring Shiva Rajkumar sir. He is a superstar in the Kannada industry. They had planned a grand event where we made an entry on a beautiful chariot. It was the time when we were going to watch the first day first show of our film. As we were nearing the theatre I could see this huge crowd of people from far away. Then I could see a big, 30 feet tall poster of our film. Also, people were pouring milk over it and putting garlands on it. It was crazy. I had never witnessed something of this scale before. Log pathake bhi phod rahe the. This was the first time I was seeing the power of stardom. I was blown away. They really worship their actors and the experience is something else. I still have the pictures of that day."

– Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes

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